to have been diverting these products for the purpose other than the intended use thereby evading sales tex. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case in the matter on 23rd May, 2000 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The sales tax being the State subject, the matter is regulated by the Sales Tax Laws of the respective State Governments.

Oil Import

890. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from where oil is being imported;

(b) the details of the oil import bills during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(c) the estimated oil import bills during the current financial year; and

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to improve India's position in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Crude oil is imported from Nigeria, Angola, UK, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Iran and Malaysia. Details of value of import are given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Crude oil import bill depends on the quantum of crude oil imported. To contain oil import bill, steps have been taken to increase refining capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector. Steps are also being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.

Statement

Region-wise/Country-wise Crude Oil Imports

Region	Country	1997-98			(1998-99)			(1999-00)*	(Prov*)	
		Qty/Mt	RS/Crore	$ Mill	Qty/MMT	Rs/Crore	$ Mill	Qty/MMT	Rs/Crore	$ Mill
Africa	Nigeria	8.071	4121	1103.14	10.966	4553	1073.41	15.445	11285	2597.66
	Angola							0.787	646	148.55
Sub Total		8.071	4121	1103.14	10.966	4553	1073.41	16.232	11931	2746.21
Europe	UK							0.277	183	42.03
Mediterranean	Egypt	1.415	628	171.62	2.232	746	175.02	1.777	1042	240.51
Sub Total		1.415	628	171.62	2.232	746	175.02	1.777	1042	240.51
Middle East	Qatar	0.067	25	6.30						
	Kuwait	5.650	2418	649.33	5.184	1748	413.12	4.795	3018	694.96
	Saudi Arabia	7.534	3356	900.16	7.687	2765	653.35	6.750	4412	1016.44
	Iraq	1.504	686	183.11	1.496	551	129.75	1.159	835	191.82
	UAE	5.567	2412	646.32	7.243	2656	627.34	7.531	4679	1085.79
	Iran	3.511	1573	422.57	2.840	1017	240.47	3.735	2543	584.85
Sub Total		23.833	10470	2807.79	24.450	8737	2064.03	23.970	15487	3573.86
South East Asia	Malaysia	1.175	614	163.52	2.135	884	208.13	2.678	1941	446.78
Sub Total		1.175	614	163.52	2.135	884	208.13	2.678	1941	446.78
Total		34.494	15833	4246.07	39.783	14920	3520.59	44.934	30584	7049.39

*Crude Includes Imports Finalised for MRPL Outside OEB for the period 1999-2000.